



## **RESOLUTION**

**RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR, AND AN APPOINTMENT TO, THE  
HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

WHEREAS, Section 17-101 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition) ("Charter"), establishes a public transit authority, known as the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation ("HART"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Section 17-103, HART is responsible for the development of the City's planned fixed guideway transit system, known as the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project ("Rail Project"); and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 17-104 provides for a 10-member HART board of directors ("HART Board") consisting of nine voting members and one nonvoting member, as follows: three members appointed by the Mayor, three members appointed by the City Council ("Council"), the State Director of Transportation and the City Director of Transportation Services serving as ex officio voting members, a ninth member appointed by a majority vote of the voting members, and the City Director of Planning and Permitting serving as an ex officio nonvoting member; and

WHEREAS, Act 1, Section 18, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, First Special Session of 2017, provides that the President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the State House of Representatives shall each appoint two ex officio nonvoting members to the HART Board and shall determine the terms for their respective appointees; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 17-104 also provides that the powers, duties and functions of the HART Board include the following:

- 1) Authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds, subject to Council approval;
- 2) Appointing and removing an Executive Director and establishing the qualifications, powers, duties, functions, and compensation of the Executive Director;
- 3) Annually evaluating the performance of the Executive Director and submitting a report thereon to the Mayor and Council;
- 4) Reviewing, modifying as necessary, and adopting annual operating and capital budgets prepared by the Executive Director, for submission, through the Mayor, to the Council;



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- 5) Determining the policy for the development of the City's fixed guideway system;
- 6) Adopting and enforcing rules and regulations having the force and effect of law to carry out the Charter provisions relating to HART; and
- 7) Submitting an annual report to the Mayor and Council on its activities; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 13-103 requires a HART Board member to be a duly registered voter of the City; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Council to evaluate each applicant for appointment to the HART Board on an objective basis, utilizing criteria previously established by Resolutions 11-30, CD1, and 19-74 ("the Resolutions"), including that a Board member:

- 1) Be free of actual or potential conflicts of interest;
- 2) Be nominated and appointed based on their demonstrated knowledge, expertise, and experience in relevant subject matter areas, including but not limited to one or more of the following: a) transit operations; b) construction management; c) financial management and risk assessment; d) land use planning; and e) property development and management;
- 3) Have at least five years of senior leadership experience in mass transit, rail, construction, engineering, business administration, financial management, law, or similar industry relevant to the Rail Project; and
- 4) Have a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate from an accredited college or university in engineering, law, accounting, business administration, public administration, or other discipline relevant to the Rail Project; or a combination of education and work experience substantially equivalent to a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that applicants for membership to the HART Board will have varying levels of the specialized expertise, training, and experience regarding the Rail Project, which are the substantial equivalent of such criteria and may be substituted therefor; and



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WHEREAS, the Council finds that such specialized expertise, training, and experience must include one or more of the following qualities critical to have represented on the HART Board for purposes of independence, representing the community at large, and achieving the ultimate success of the project:

- 1) A record of community engagement and historical knowledge of the Rail Project;
- 2) A familiarity with community impacts and benefits related to the Rail Project;
- 3) A demonstrated ability to research, analyze, evaluate, and weigh the voluminous details associated with the Rail Project;
- 4) A background in the environmental considerations and elements of the Rail Project; or
- 5) An understanding of community equity considerations related to the Rail Project; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that Anthony B. Aalto's expertise, training, and experience on the Rail Project, including his in-depth study of the Rail Project for over a year in producing a documentary film on the project and his well-balanced analysis of the status of the project (as shown on the attached Exhibit 1), meet the foregoing requirements and, therefore, are the substantial equivalent of the criteria listed in the 2011 and 2019 Resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the Council has carefully considered the backgrounds, qualifications, and character of various HART Board candidates and desires to appoint Anthony B. Aalto to serve the remainder of the term that will expire on June 30, 2026; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it hereby appoints Anthony B. Aalto to serve on the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board of Directors for the term to expire on June 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Anthony B. Aalto for his willingness to be considered for public service and actively participating in City government; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Transportation Services, the Chair of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board of Directors, and Anthony B. Aalto.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Radiant Cordes*

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUL 14 2021

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

## Anthony Aalto

[anthony@greenislandfilms.com](mailto:anthony@greenislandfilms.com)

### Background

Born in London UK, I was raised in Mallorca, Spain - the O'ahu of the Mediterranean: an island similar to O'ahu in remarkable ways: almost the same size, with a similar sized population, a similar reputation as being one of the most beautiful islands on earth, and similarly facing serious concerns related to tourism, immigration from the mainland and development. I grew up in a family prominently involved in all these issues, including leading the opposition to a proposed major freeway by advocating for a rail line instead.

### 2013 - Present

#### **Co-Founder, Managing Partner & Producer - Green Island Films, Honolulu, Hawai'i**

Green Island Films is a Honolulu-based film production company that makes impact documentaries about some of the cutting edge issues of our times. The documentaries Green Island Films makes are known for being extensively researched, grounded in facts and data, and told through the lens of compelling, personal storylines that illustrate the difficult policy choices at hand.

**Ketchup and M&M's.** Green Island Films most recent documentary has just completed its premiere primetime run on Hawaii News Now (HNN). The film documents the extraordinary threat the climate crisis poses to Hawaii's food supply, and the dangers of dependence on outside food sources in light of the growing impact of climate-driven natural disasters on our island community. It is the third in a series of three films produced in collaboration with Hawaii News Now and with the backing of over two dozen local sponsors.

**2018 - 2020: A Climate For Change.** Episode 1 *The New Normal* and Episode 2 *A Second Chance*. Production of this film series focused on the increasing risk to island populations from the climate crisis. The first two episodes premiered in the spring of 2020. The "A Climate For Change" films also form the scaffold around which we have built a free "**Teachers' Toolkit**" of curriculum-appropriate, project-based, middle-school lesson plans to provide accurate, science-based climate crisis teaching materials for Hawaii's schools.

**2014 - 2016: No Room In Paradise.** A film about the homeless crisis in Hawai'i. Made in collaboration with HNN, the film was Emmy-nominated, won numerous awards and broadcast nationally on PBS. It helped focus attention on the homeless problem in Hawai'i and prompted significant policy action.

**2013 - 2014: Railroading Paradise.** Premiered at the Hawai'i International Film Festival and then enjoyed a broadcast run on Hawaii News Now. The film provided a detailed analysis of the issues surrounding rail on O'ahu and an unvarnished look at the risks and benefits of Hawaii's largest civil works project in history.

**2006 - 2013**      **Pacific Rim Correspondent** - Reporting for *Expresso*, Portugal's leading newspaper.

**1988 - 2006**      **International Correspondent - United Nations, New York.**  
Reporting on all types of news (investigative, breaking, war, politics, science, arts, sports, travel etc) for multiple media (*BBC*, *Economist*, *The Nation*, *CBC*, *Expresso*, etc) across the globe.

**1986 - 1988**      **Fellow, Center for International Policy - Washington D.C.**  
Performed detailed policy research, analysis, and led informational briefings and learning trip including for Congressional delegations.

**1982 - 1986**      **Senior Correspondent, Central America & Caribbean - *The Guardian*, London, UK.** Covered complex civil conflicts notably in Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries.

**1980 - 1982**      **Account Exec - Int. Marketing & Promotions, London, UK**

## **Volunteer**

**2011 - Present**      **Executive Committee Member - Sierra Club O'ahu Group**

**2012 - 2018**      **Chair - Sierra Club O'ahu Group**  
Work focused on food security, agricultural land preservation, and a shift in strategy to encourage building more affordable housing in urban-zoned areas. This included work to support transit-oriented neighborhoods and organizing support from Sierra Club to endorse O'ahu's rail project.

- 2002 - 2006      **Founding Board Member - STOP Stop Trafficking of People, New York**  
An NGO working to fight international trafficking and to rescue trafficked people.
- 2002 & 2003      **President - United Nations Correspondents Association, New York.**  
Represented press corps to UN leadership, NY Police Department etc. Organized press events & fundraisers etc.
- 1984 - 1986      **Secretary - Foreign Correspondents Association, Nicaragua**
- 1979 - 1980      **President - Durham Students Union**

**Education**      B.A. (Hons) English & Russian, **University of Durham, UK** (1978)